



MELTHAM

Urban District Council



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1938.

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Dudd House,
Meltham.
July, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Meltham Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Haigh and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1938.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

The Public Health Officers of the Council during the year were:—

Dr. Robert Gellatly, M.D.C.M., Medical Officer of Health;
Mr. R. G. Suddick, Sanitary Inspector.

The appointment of Medical Officer of Health is a part-time one. The Sanitary Inspector is also Building Surveyor and Water Engineer to the Council and devotes his whole time to the duties of those offices.

A contribution to the salaries of the Officers is made by the County Council under arrangement with the Ministry of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area and population of the District were increased as from April 1st, 1938, by the inclusion of part of the former South Crosland Urban District.

AREA.—The area of the district is 5,906 acres.

POPULATION.—The population at the 1931 Census of Meltham Urban District was 5,051, and the Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population of the extended district at the middle of 1938 is 5,039.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1938, according to the Rate Book, was 1,704.

RAINFALL during the year, 58.13 inches.

The rateable value of the district on the 1st April, 1938, was £28,129, and a penny rate produced £110 2s. 2d. for 1938.

The principal industries now carried on in the district are cotton thread weaving, woollen manufacture, silk dressing, brick making, mixed farming and poultry keeping. The industries carried on in the district cannot be said to be detrimental to the health of those engaged therein.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(Comparability figure 0.97 equal to a population of 4,950)

LIVE BIRTHS...	{		Total	M.	F.	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion 13.53	
		Legitimate..	65	35	30		
		Illegitimate.	2	1	1		
STILL BIRTHS	{	Legitimate	2	1	1	} Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births) Births 28.985.	
		Illegitimate	0	0	0		
DEATHS	61	26	35	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population 12.32

The Births for 1938 show an increase from the year 1937, and Deaths have decreased.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes	14.492
Total...	14.492

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	..	..	...	29.85
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				30.769
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	..	...	5
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			...	Nil.

The causes of death were:—

	M.	F.
Diphtheria	0	0
Influenza	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...	2	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease	2	3
Diabetes	0	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2	4
Heart Disease	8	9
Other Circulatory Diseases	0	0
Appendicitis	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms)... ..	2	0
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0
Peptic Ulcer	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	0	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0
Other Liver Diseases	0	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	0	1
Senility	1	2
Violence	1	1
Other Defined Diseases	3	5
Suicide	0	1
Bronchitis... ..	1	0
Puerperal Causes	0	1
Whooping Cough	1	0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no developments or changes since my last Annual Report.

Water Supply.

During the year the water supply has been satisfactory and adequate.

The Council's supply was analysed thirteen times during the year and found to be satisfactory.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The sewage works have been found to be overloaded at times during the year, and the Council have engaged a Consulting Engineer to submit a report on the matter.

Rivers and Streams.

No action found necessary in regard to pollution.

Closet Accommodation.

Eighteen conversions during the year. The closets of each type remaining at the end of 1938 are:—

	Total.	Private.	Common.
Water Closets ...	1027	828	199
Earth Closets ...	143	70	73
Tub Closets ...	178	115	63
	<hr/> 1348 <hr/>	<hr/> 1013 <hr/>	<hr/> 335 <hr/>

The Council supply ash bins on request to property owners at a small margin above cost price, and in approved cases make a grant of £2 and free ash bin where owners convert to water closet.

Public Cleansing.

Amount of refuse removed during year ..	1885 tons.
Mileage covered by cleansing waggon ...	5885

The refuse is disposed of at the Wood Bottom tip on the controlled system.

The total cost of removal and disposal of the refuse for the past year was £873 0s. 0d.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

INSPECTIONS. NATURE.	Number.	NOTICES.			
		Informal.	Formal.	Complied with.	Outstanding at end of year.
Infectious Diseases....	3	—	—	—	—
Disinfection	6	—	—	—	—
Ordinary Nuisances ..	158	59	2	59	2
Dwellings	131	49	—	28	21
Cowsheds	380	9	—	9	—
Bakehouses	211	3	—	3	—
Slaughter Houses	306	—	—	—	—
Privies and Pail Closets	209	32	—	32	—
Workshops, Workplaces	142	6	—	6	—
Schools	4	—	—	—	—
Disinfestation	1	1	—	1	—

Shops Act. Ventilation and Temperature.

The usual inspections have been made, and means of raising and maintaining a reasonable temperature were asked for in one case and provided by the firm concerned.

Smoke Abatement.

Observations have been taken of certain chimneys in the area during the year. The amount of smoke given out was not such as to justify any formal action by the Council. Experiments are being made at certain premises in an attempt to reduce the amount and density of smoke emitted.

Swimming Baths.

There are none in the area at present.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One house was found to be infested. It was treated with Zaldecide, the work being carried out by the Council's employees. Houses of tenants selected for a Council house tenancy are inspected for vermin.

Schools.

The following are the particulars relating to the water supply to the Schools in the area, viz. :—

Meltham	Water from Council's Main.
Meltham Mills ...	Do.
Helme... ..	Do.
Wilshaw	Water from Private Supply.

It has not been found necessary during the year to close any schools for the purpose of checking the spread of infectious disease.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

These have been visited during the year and found to be satisfactory.

Extra duties have been placed on the Department by the new Factories Act, and it has not been possible to complete the inspection of premises requiring Certificates of Fire Escapes, etc., but these will be dealt with as soon as possible.

H O U S I N G .**STATISTICS.**

Number of new Houses erected during the year :

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) )	...	...	...	...	...	18
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—						
(I) By the Local Authority...	...	...	...	...	...	10
(II) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	0

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	...	...	...	...	...	63
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose						131
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932...						14
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose						32
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	14
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	49

Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action of the Local Authority or their Officers	27
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs						0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... | ... | ... | 6 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | 6 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | 0 |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|---|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | 0 |

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | 0 |

Two Clearance Areas were declared in 1938, the Meltham U.D.C. (Westgate) Clearance Area, comprising 10 houses with a population of 36, and the Meltham U.D.C. (Huddersfield Road) Clearance Area, comprising 6 houses with a population of 16. An Inquiry was held in October, 1938, and the Orders were confirmed by the Minister of Health.

Fifteen houses were in course of erection on the Broadlands Estate for the displaced tenants, ten being completed by the end of the year.

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|
| (a) (I) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | 14 |
| (II) Number of families dwelling therein | ... | 14 | |
| (III) Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | 75½ | |

(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	0
(c)	(I) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	2
	(II) Number of persons concerned in such cases						$16\frac{1}{2}$
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a).—MILK SUPPLY.

There are four Accredited producers in the area. The local Co-operative Society also sell sterilised milk. The supply and distribution of the milk is in the hands of the producers, the farmers.

Nineteen samples of milk were taken and sent to the County Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue Reduction Test. Of these, 11 were satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory.

In addition, samples are taken from the Accredited producers by Officers of the County Council.

Alterations and improvements have been made in a number of cowsheds as the result of representations made by the Department.

Inspection of the dairies and cowsheds is carried out regularly. The Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Inspector also visits in connection with inspection of milch cows.

(b) MEAT, &c.

A regular system of meat inspection has been carried out, and the Sanitary Inspector inspects every animal slaughtered in the area. The following are particulars of the inspections:

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	320	58	8	1100	323
Number inspected	320	58	8	1100	323
All Diseases (excepting Tuberculosis) whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	3	—	4	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	3.43%	5.17%	—	0.36%	0.93%
Tuberculosis only — Whole carcasses condemned	5	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	28	7	—	—	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	10.31%	12.06	—	—	2.16%

Visits have been paid to shops and stores in the district, and, generally speaking, these are well kept.

There are four bakehouses in the district. The premises have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and are clean and satisfactory.

There has been no reported case of Food Poisoning during the year.

(c).—ADULTERATION, &c.

The Council is not the Local Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, etc., etc.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Arrangements have been made to obtain a supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin at the Isolation Hospital.

The recently developed artificial methods of immunization against diphtheria have been used both privately and by the County Council at Schools and Clinics.

Prevalence of disease at Schools is notified by the School Attendance Officer, and action taken.

The District was free from any serious outbreak of non-notifiable infectious disease during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during
the year 1938.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever... ..	2	2	0
Diphtheria... ..	1	1	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0

ANALYSIS.

Under..	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-45	45 and over
Scarlet Fever.....	—	1	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria.....	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal } Meningitis.. }	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	2	1	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year two deaths were registered in the district as due to Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total....	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—

The notification of tuberculosis is satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action taken during the year.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Council maintain an Ambulance for use in accident cases and the removal of serious cases of non-infectious illness when certified to be necessary by a doctor.

An Ambulance for cases of infectious disease is run by the Colne and Holme Joint Hospital Board from the Hospital at Meltham.

In conclusion I should like to pay a tribute to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk and Officials for the assistance and courtesy extended to me during the year, and to the Sanitary Inspector for his loyal co-operation in my work.

I am,

Miss Haigh and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. GELLATLY.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

England and Wales,
London 126 Great
Towns and 148
Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administ'ive County
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
Births—				
Live 	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4
Still 	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48
Deaths=				
All Causes 	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4
Typhoid and)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fevers)				
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles 	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06
Scarlet Fever 	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough ...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria 	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06
Notifications=				
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever 	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05
Diphtheria 	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90
Enteric Fever 	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas 	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46
Pneumonia 	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea and)	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1
Enteritis under 2 years)				
of age )				
Maternal Mortality=				
Puerperal Sepsis... ...	0.89	Not available		
Others 	2.19			
Total 	3.08			
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live & Still)			
Maternal Mortality—				
Puerperal Sepsis... ...	0.86	Not available		
Others 	2.11			
Total 	2.97			
Notifications—				
Puerperal Fever ...)	14.42	18.08	12.51	3.53
Puerperal Pyrexia ...)				15.46

